(c) whether Government would consider to treat the local panchayats as franchisees to the fiscal promotion of local authority;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Deployment of franchisees for management of rural distribution in projects financed under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) has been made mandatory. The States have provided prior commitment for deployment of franchisees under RGGVY before sanction of the projects to avail capital subsidy under the scheme.

(b) Deployment of franchisees in the rural distribution system would be beneficial to the rural Households and is likely to improve customer service, improve the revenue collection and reduce losses of the state power utilities. Based on sample study by independent NGOs following benefits have already been felt as a result of installation of franchisees system:—

1. Generation of Business opportunities for the local people.
2. Direct employment to villagers including women.
3. Improvement in consumer services.
4. Enhancement in revenue collection.
5. Increase in domestic, commercial and agriculture consumers.
6. Decrease in AT & C losses.
7. Consumer records in villages have been systematized.
8. Defective meter replacements are in process and electronic meters owned by consumers are in use.
9. Regular meter reading and billing on monthly basis is in progress.

(c) to (e) Under RGGVY, Panchayati Raj Institutions will have an important role of overseeing, in advisory capacity, the delivery of services by the franchisees according to their identified responsibilities. The State Government could also encourage the Panchayati Raj institutions to take on responsibility of franchisee as and when such institutions have developed to the extent that they can undertake contractual obligations, raise resources form market and can discharge associated legal responsibilities. In such cases, appropriate mechanisms should be put in place by the state government for independent overseeing of the franchisee function of these institutions.

Electrification of villages in Orissa

1414. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Orissa during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the Eleventh Five Year Plan under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme (RREP) and the funds utilized by the State;

(b) the number of villages in the State which have been completely electrified, so far;

(c) whether the Ministry has already taken up electrification of remote villages of the State, as a part of RREP and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when the Ministry would take up the same and by when they would be fully electrified?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Funds under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) are released in instalments based on the progress reported by the implementing states. Orissa State so far has availed Rs. 119.34 crore under RGGVY.

(b) As per report of Central Electricity Authority, there are 26,235 electrified villages in Orissa as on 31.03.2006.

(c) and (d) RGGVY has envisaged electrification of all the villages and habitation with population in excess of 100 except remote villages covered for electrification under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Programme. Rural Electrification Corporation has identified 1018 villages in the State of Orissa for electrification under Remote Village Electrification (RVE) Programme of MNRE. MNRE has sanctioned 215 villages for electrification under RVE. Electrification of 18 villages have been completed and 197 are under implementation.

Availability of power on demand

1415. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is ensuring power availability on demand, envisaged to be fully met by 2012;

(b) if so, the details worked out, so far;

(c) whether the Ministry has invited suggestions of various States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Seventeenth Electric Power Survey (EPS) of India published by Central Electricity Authority has projected that by the end of 11th Plan (year 2011-12) the energy requirement would be 9,68,659 Million Unit (MU) and peaking requirement would be 1,52,746 MW at the power station bus bars. Central Electricity Authority has further assessed that with the fructification of proposed capacity addition programme of 78,577 MW, shortages are likely to be eliminated.

(c) and (d) Both in respect of finalization of Seventeenth EPS Report for demand projections and State Sector capacity addition programme proposed for the 11th Plan, States were duly consulted. Furthermore, the State-wise capacity addition programme was discussed in the Conference of Chief Secretaries and Power Secretaries of States on 23rd & 24th April, 2007 and in the Chief Ministers conference held on 28th May, 2007 in New Delhi, and in the Standing Group of Ministers meeting held on 24th September, 2007.